

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

NFAC #5339/78

28 November 1978

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. [REDACTED] Director of Security  
THROUGH : Director, National Foreign Assessment Center  
FROM : Coordinator for Academic Relations, NFAC  
SUBJECT : New Security Regulations on University Student Group  
Visits to Headquarters

1. It has come to the attention of this office that over the past several weeks there has been a change in security policy on two aspects of university student group visits to the Headquarters Building. These changes are:

- a. Limiting student and faculty visitors to the Auditorium.
- b. Excluding any foreign national student attending a US institution of learning from entering the compound.

These restrictions are severely limiting our ability to run a successful program.

2. Background: When the job of Coordinator for Academic Relations and External Analytical Support (and later that of Associate Coordinator) was created as a full-time position, its charter included an effort to change the image of CIA in the academic community. As part of this effort, a program of Headquarters visits and briefings of university student groups was undertaken. These visits usually consist of an unclassified briefing on the CIA, especially on NFAC and its functions of supporting US policymakers. Sometimes, discussions on functional or regional problems are added.

3. Our program has centered on graduate and undergraduate schools with strong programs in area studies and foreign affairs or schools that run courses on national security problems. In the past two years, NFAC

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has hosted 24 university student and faculty groups from Syracuse University (the Maxwell School), Columbia University (the International Fellows Program), West Point, the University of California, Princeton University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Colgate University, and the University of Michigan. These groups have ranged in size from ten to 150 people. Often they included a few foreign nationals.

4. At the 26 October 1978 meeting of university presidents with Admiral Turner, the visitors pointed out that student visits to the Agency are a major way of improving the Agency's image with the student body. The university presidents suggested that this program be expanded. The program also has had positive aspects besides the obvious public relations effects. For example, the program has aided in establishing good personal relationships with faculty members on many campuses. These contacts are useful in recruiting employees and consultants. In addition, many of the students and some faculty members who visit become interested in employment by the Agency. Further, some students who visit us will find employment at the State Department, the Department of Defense or the Treasury, where they will begin with an awareness of the resources available from the Agency and will be more inclined to coordinate their work efforts with Agency analysts.

5. The Problem: The restriction that limits all student groups to the Auditorium during working hours severely limits our ability to run a successful briefing program. First, there are the physical problems. The Auditorium is often booked when student groups would like to visit the Agency. Many of these groups are from out of town and are planning a Washington visit for only a day or two. Their flexibility in time and date of visit is limited and with only the Auditorium, so is ours. For example, recently a small group of honors students from the University of Michigan were planning to visit Washington for one day only, 27 November. They requested a series of area briefings similar to those received by the same group last year. We had to turn them down because the Auditorium had been booked all day for a series of security briefings.

6. On occasion we have had several groups requesting visits on the same day and even at the same time of day. If we are limited to the use of the Auditorium, we can only accommodate one group at a time. As a

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case in point, we are scheduled again this year to host the language clubs from the US Military Academy at West Point in April, 1979. These clubs, of which there are usually at least three, have about 40 members each. In the past they have been given individual area briefings; for example, a Soviet area briefing for the Russian language club and a Middle East situation briefing for the Arabic club. Obviously it will not be feasible to do this, unless we have three or four separate rooms to meet in.

7. There are also certain valuable intangibles such as the atmosphere of intimacy a briefing creates. This is hardly achievable, however, if we are forced to brief 20 students in an auditorium that holds 500. A small conference room would serve much better. In addition, we are told that the trip to the Agency is often the highlight of a student group's trip to Washington. Many of our visitors are greatly impressed with our facilities and go away with the feeling that they have seen something few others have seen.

8. The second change in security procedure, that of excluding foreign students from participating in Agency visits, will probably have an even more damaging impact upon our program. We naturally seek to attract graduate students involved in area study programs or foreign affairs curriculum at major universities. These types of programs from major universities usually attract a number of foreign students for obvious reasons. At present, there are over 235,000 foreign students registered in colleges and universities throughout the US. It is very difficult to tell a program administrator or faculty member that he can bring forty of his students into the compound but must not bring his two non-US students. In discussions with university officials on this matter, I have encountered resentment and a general lack of understanding. The reaction usually is to question what a few well-mannered non-US students could possibly do to the Agency, which has a security force capable of coping with TV and movie cameras shooting in the building.

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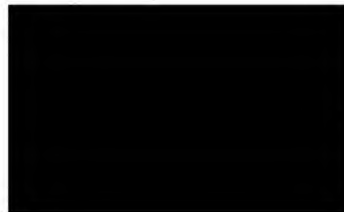
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9. Recommendation: That the policy of (a) limiting student groups to the Auditorium and (b) excluding non-US students from the compound be reconsidered.

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NFAC/CAR/ [REDACTED] (28 November 1978)

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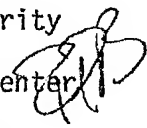
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